

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 ACDA-19 SAM-01 EB-11 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 082318

R 141206Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1832

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D N T I A L TEL AVIV 1488

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: SHARM EL-SHEIKH IN ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS

REF: CAIRO 896 (NOTAL, TEL AVIV 1431

1. STATEMENT MARCH 10 IN KNESSET BY DEFMIN DAYAN (TEL AVIV REFTEL) THAT HE COULD NOT FORESEE ABU RODEIS OILFIELDS NOR ENTRANCE TO GULF OF SUEZ FALLING WITHIN FINAL BORDER TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT RAISES QUESTION OF WHAT DAYAN HAS IN MIND IN TERMS OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI AND CONTROL OF SHARM EL-SHEIKH.

2. IN PERIOD FOLLOWING OCTOBER WAR THERE WAS SOME QUESTIONING IN ISRAEL OF IMPORTANCE OF ISRAELI RETENTION OF SHARM EL -SHEIKH. EGYPTIAN CAPABILITY TO BLOCKADE BAB EL MANDEB RAISED DOUBTS  
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IN MINDS OF SOME ISRAELIS ABOUT VALIDITY OF ASSUMPTION THAT

ISRAEL MUST CONTROL ENTRANCE TO GULF OF AQABA IN ORDER TO PREVENT EGYPTIAN CLOSURE OF STRAITS OF TIRAN. THESE DOUBTS PRODUCED SHARP REACTION BY CERTAIN ISRAELI COMMENTATORS WHO ARGUED THAT ISRAEL NEED SHARM AREA IN ORDER TO BE IN POSITION TO BLOCKADE GULF OF SUEZ IN RETALIATION FOR ANY EGYPTIAN BLOCKADE OF BAB EL MANDEB. DAYAN SOON THEREAFTER CAME OUT WITH STRONG STATEMENT CALLING FOR ISRAELI RETENTION OF SHAR AL-SHEIKH TO PROTECT GULF OF AQABA SHIPPING IN IMMEDIATE AREA, EVEN THOUGH THIS WOULD NOT RESOLVE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE EGYPTIAN BLOCKADE OF BAB EL-MANDEB.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE STATEMENT BY DAYAN, HIS MARCH 10 REMARKS RAISE QUESTION OF WHETHER HE HAS CHANGED HIS THINKING ON THIS ISSUE. IN OUR VIEW, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT HE HAS. DAYAN IN RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID BEING PINNED DOWN ON WHAT HE THINKS FINAL BORDER WITH EGYPT SHOULD BE. OPPOSITION LIKUD LEADER MENACHEM BEGIN ASKED DAYAN MARCH 10 WHAT FINAL LINE WITH EGYPT SHOULD BE AFTER DAYAN MADE HIS STATEMENT RE ABU RODEIS AND ENTRANCE TO GULF OF SUEZ. DAYAN POINTEDLY REFUSED TO DRAW A LINE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS REFLECTS DAYAN'S DETERMINATION TO FUZZ THIS ISSUE IN ORDER NOT TO INTRODUCE A DISCORDANT ELEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT WHEN NO PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY DOING SO.  
KEATING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE PLANS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TELAV01488  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
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**Line Count:** 85  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** CAIRO 896 (NOTAL, TEL AVIV 1431  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SHARM EL-SHEIKH IN ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS  
**TAGS:** PBOR, EG, IS, (DAYAN, MOSHE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005